1st November 1933]

(c) Promotions to the posts of Assistant Commissioner are made from the class of Inspectors who belong to the same service as Assistant Commissioners. The communal rule does not apply to promotions within a service.

(d) The following officers have held the post of Secretary since the constitution of the Excise department in April 1924:—

	Name of officer.	Dates.
1	Khan Bahadur Muhammad Sadukh Ali Sahib Bahadur.	1st April 1924 to 10th May 1924.
2	Mr. H. B. Rendle	11th May 1924 to 28th March 1925.
3	Mr. W. A. Brito	29th March 1925 to 30th April 1926.
		1st November 1926 to 20th December 1929.

(Mr. W. A. Brito was on privilege leave for three weeks from 9th February 1928 to 29th February 1928 when M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib P. K. Ramunni Menon Avargal, the Assistant Secretary, was in additional charge.)

4	M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Muthuswami Ayyar Avargal.	1st May 1926 to 31st October 1926.
5	Mr. E. Brito	From 21st December 1929.

The most suitable Assistant Commissioner of Excise available at the time is appointed to the post of Secretary.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Land Revenue Administration

Damage caused by floods in Ganjam district.

273 *Q.*—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of damage caused on account of floods during the current fasli (i) in the Palur Estate in the Chatrapur taluk in the Ganjam district, (ii) in the Aska, the Ghumsur and Chatrapur and Kodala taluks in the Ganjam district;

(b) whether during this fasli damage was caused by floods in any other part of the Ganjam district;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to relieve the distress caused by such floods;

(d) whether the floods in the Rushikulya and its tributary the Ghodahado river are due to the silting up of the bed of the Rushikulya owing to a sand-bank being formed at its mouth;

(e) when the sand-bank at the mouth of the Rushikulya was formed and when the district authorities took notice of it;

(f) whether the Government ever took any steps to remove the sand-bank so as to admit of free flow of the waters of the Rushikulya into the Bay of Bengal; and

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(g) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the report or reports received regarding the recent floods in the Ganjam district?

A.—(a), (b) & (g) Copies of the reports received from the Collector are laid on the table.[a]

(c) In addition to the steps taken by the Collector as detailed in his reports, the Government have sanctioned sums aggregating Rs. 1,500 (rupees one thousand five hundred only) for relief of distress.

(d), (e) & (f) The Government have not the information, but have called for a report from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS ESTATES LAND ACT, 1908, FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES (BILL No. 12 of 1931).

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu will continue his speech."

* Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, the hon. the Raja Sahib of Bobbili was referring to the cumulative effect of the various provisions of the Bill which is proposed to be introduced by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. He said that the Bill will cut down the income of the zamindars to a very material extent, to at least 50 per cent. Whatever may be the effect of the provisions of Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti's Bill and even though these provisions were, according to him, of such a serious nature, he called a conference of the ryots' representatives who were willing to co-operate with him and to collaborate and discuss the provisions of the Bill. I will be able to show from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the draft Bill, what the attitude of the ryots' representatives who discussed the Bill was, and how unfounded were the apprehensions of the hon. the Raja of Bobbili in this matter.

"I would ask the hon. the Revenue Member to say whether, after all, Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti's Bill is so confiscatory as the hon. the Raja Sahib would put it and, if the provisions are bad, to remedy them, and to amend the provisions suitably.

"The Raja Sahib of Khallikote was saying that the zamindars have to meet the peshkash and the charges of the Government punctually. If not, the Collector does not hesitate to attach the properties; so the zamindars have to pay the peshkash and the bill of the Government punctually. Let us see the other side. Are the zamindars satisfied that their ryots are in a position to pay the kist punctually and without any difficulty whatever? Do they think that the ryot has got money full in his pocket and he has to be simply asked to pay and that he will do so? He is in a worse position than the zamindar in this matter. He is groaning under heavy taxation; not a single day passes, not a

[a] Printed as Appendix VII on pages 311–317 infra.